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Home and Garden Varieties for 1964

Here is your 1964 revised listing of some of the newer and some of the older garden varieties you might consider planting this spring and summer. These have been tested under Iowa growing conditions and have proved their worth.

by John P. Mahlstede

AS YOU LOOK through your nursery and garden catalogs this year or visit your local florist, garden center or nurseryman, you will see many new names in the ever increasing inventory of plants. Some will be so new that little is known about their ability to perform under Iowa conditions, while you will recognize others as old standbys.

As new varieties become available, and many times even before they are released to the gardening public, the Department of Horticulture has an opportunity to test these plant materials in trial gardens supervised by specialists. Through constant surveillance, records and comparison, these men are able to pick out varieties best adapted to our weather and soil.

There are so many ornamental, vegetable and fruit plants available to the gardener it is impossible to list the best of everything. For this reason, we have prepared a list of plants that are most often grown in Iowa gardens. Choice selections of different types of ornamentals are included in this listing each year. For a more complete listing of recommended flower, fruit and vegetable varieties you may write to the Extension Horticulturist, Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University.

Ornamentals . . .

Roses: Two roses were chosen to receive AARS awards for 1964: Granada, a

bicolored red and gold hybrid tea, and Saratoga, a white floribunda. Both roses have grown well and flowered satisfactorily through three years of pre-introductory test. Other new roses of merit for Iowa are Musicale — scarlet and gold; Stella — peach-pink, and Tickled Pink — coral pink — these are grandiflora roses. New floribundas which should give garden satisfaction are Pink-A-Boo — rosy coral, Papillon Rose — salmon pink, and Queenie — salmon. Mentions: New hybrid teas are Lucky Piece and Chicago Peace — coppery pink Peace sports, Candy Stripe — a pink and white striped, Crimson Duke — dark crimson red, Grand Slam — brilliant red, and Summer Sunshine — a deep yellow rose with a very vigorous plant.

Geraniums: The ISU geranium variety Cardinal has been received very favorably by those home gardeners fortunate enough to obtain plants last spring. It should be welcome news that there should be enough plants this coming spring for everyone. (See Iowa Farm Science, March 1962.)

Ground Covers . . .

Carpet Bugle: A low-growing (3-4 inch) plant with glossy foliage and bright blue spring flowers. Green and purple leaf varieties are available. Grows well in sun or shade. Plant 10 to 12 inches apart for a fast growing ground cover. Performs best if divided and replanted every 3 or 4 years.

Periwinkle or Trailing Myrtle: A woody semi-evergreen plant 2 to 4 inches high. Bright blue flowers appear in early spring. Grows well in sun or shade but retains the leaves better during the winter if grown in shade. Spring-flowering bulbs can be planted with periwinkle for an effective spring planting.

Garden Plumbago (Ceratostigma): An excellent ground cover during the growing season but dies back to the ground after hard frost. Somewhat slow in developing the following spring. Numerous blue flowers are produced during the spring and early summer. Grows 6 to 10 inches high. Plant in full sun, 10 to 12 inches apart.

Crownvetch (Penngift variety): A vigorous growing, deep-rooting legume for problem areas such as steep slopes

or where a refined ground cover is not required. Grows 12 to 15 inches high. Best in full sun but will grow well in semi-shade. Can be grown from seed or transplants.

Shrubs

Bayberry: An excellent shrub with fragrant, semi-evergreen leaves. This plant produces the waxy berries from which bayberry candles are made. This plant may die back to the ground in severe winters but makes rapid growth from the root system. Reaches a height of 5 to 6 feet in Iowa.

Kasan Firethorn: Perhaps the hardiest firethorn. Can be used as a dense shrub or as a climbing plant against a wall. Should be planted in a protected location. Orange berries are produced, and these persist during the early winter.

Winterberry or Black-Alder: A deciduous holly (drops the leaves in the fall) with attractive red berries that persist until Christmas. Should be planted in a protected location. Has a mature height of 6 to 8 feet.

Korean Box: The hardiest boxwood for the northern states. A slow-growing evergreen plant with a mature height of 3 feet. Can be grown in full sun or in shade. Winter and early spring color is better when grown in shade or semi-shade. This boxwood can be maintained to a small size by occasional shearing.

Herbaceous Perennials

Gasplant (Dictamnus): A very old plant that is hardly used in Iowa gardens but one that should be better known. White or rose-colored flowers are produced in the spring on a 30-inch high plant. The dark green, glossy foliage is quite attractive, and the dried seed heads are often used in flower arrangements. Grows best in full sun or a lightly shaded location.

Hosta (plantain lilies): These are excellent plants for growing in shade. Honeybell has large, glossy leaves and produces light lavender, fragrant flowers in August. It grows 2 feet tall and is an attractive garden plant even when not in bloom. Thomas Hogg has dark, glossy-green foliage with a narrow white mar-



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gin. It grows 18 inches high and produces lavender flowers in late August and September.

Vegetables . . .

Tomatoes

Fireball: A very early, sparsely-foliated variety. For best results, we suggest very young transplants or direct seeding in your garden.

Moreton Hybrid: An early, large-vined variety. Fruit may crack, but its high yield insures many good fruits for slicing or canning.

Cardinal Hybrid: The best performing variety in 1963 Iowa trials. Fruits are free from serious cracks and are suitable for slicing or canning.

Glamour: Similar to Cardinal Hybrid in cracking resistance but lower yielding; not resistant to wilt.

Snap Bean

Executive: A stringless, fiberless green bean developed for fresh, canning or freezing use.

Lettuce

Buttercrunch: The best new variety for early planting. Forms a small sweet and tender head, resists hot weather more than Bibb.

Peas

Little Marvel: Small-podded, early, sweet and a reliable producer in Iowa.

Frosty: This variety matures a little

later, has larger pods and is sweeter than Little Marvel.

Onions

Early Harvest: Early hybrid with fair storage ability and moderate pungency.

Muskmelons

Burpee Hybrid: A queen-type that matures early, has excellent flavor.

Harper Hybrid: A high-quality melon with light skin.

Sweetcorn

Iochief: A reliable, high-quality, mid-season cropper.

Golden Beauty: Early, best variety in nationwide trials in past few years.

Cucumber

Challenger: F1 hybrid slicer with dependable yield.

Squash

Mooregold: A new introduction from Wisconsin, this small winter squash has excellent flavor, smooth texture and an extremely hard shell.

Hercules: A butternut type with much more usable flesh per fruit, high quality.

Fruits . . .

Apples

Jonadel: This good early-winter variety was introduced by Iowa State in 1958. Fruit is bright cherry red and matures about the second or third week in September in central Iowa. Fruit is good for

cooking, fresh salads and fresh eating.

Sharon: A good late-fall variety introduced by Iowa State in 1921, but hasn't been planted much until the past 10-15 years. Red bud sports have been found which should make this variety more popular with commercial growers. It's also a good home orchard variety. Fruit is striped red to almost solid red, ripens early to mid-September, is excellent for cooking, fresh salads and fresh eating. Trees are hardy in all areas of Iowa, but the variety is as susceptible to fire blight as Jonathan.

Strawberries

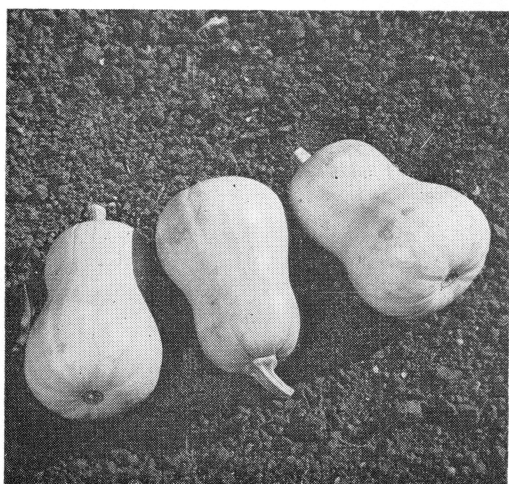
Cyclone: A June-bearing variety introduced by Iowa State in 1960, matures early and has large berries of excellent dessert quality. Plants are vigorous and good runner producers; foliage is somewhat resistant to leaf spot.

Ozark Beauty: One of the highest yielding everbearers in three seasons of testing; yields ranged from 6,000 to 12,000 quarts per acre. Its berry is large, quite firm with good flavor, wedge-shaped, bright red with prominent yellow seeds. Plants are vigorous and productive, but show susceptibility to late-season leaf diseases. The variety was developed by crossing Red Rich with Twentieth Century. Though originated in Arkansas, Ozark Beauty carries the same winter-hardiness in Iowa as the other recommended varieties.

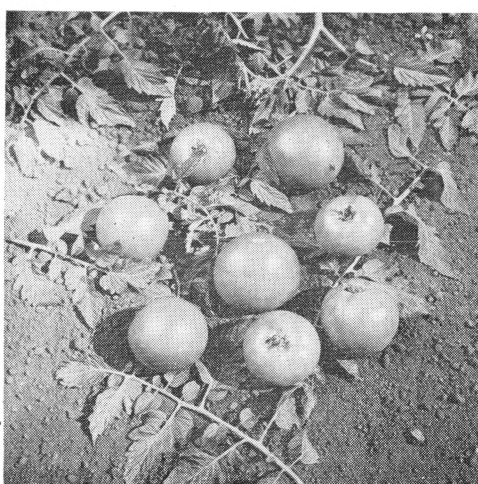
Raspberries

Blackhawk: This is a very productive black raspberry variety. Berry size is very large. Flavor is good. Seediness is less objectionable than with most other black raspberry varieties. It can be used as a fresh dessert berry or for freezing.

Logan and Bristol: Both black raspberries and *September*, a red raspberry, are recommended where virus-free plants are available from commercial nurseries.



Hercules — note the thick meaty neck of this butternut type squash.



Cardinal Hybrid — an excellent crack-resistant tomato with fine flavor.



Cyclone — an early, large and productive June-bearing strawberry.